



PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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Dates to Remember 2023

- **3 April**
University Fair
- **5 April**
IBDP Parent morning
- **7 - 10 April**
Easter Weekend (School closed)
- **7 April**
World Health Day
- **17 April**
Egyptian spring festival - sham el Nessim
- **22 - 24 April**
Eid Al Fitr



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

Regardless of where in the world I am living, I always love it when someone comes to visit me. Through a visitor's eyes, I can see my work and life surroundings with a fresh and newly appreciative perspective. We had a visit today from Dr Tim Stuart, the Regional Education Officer with the US Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools. Tim is the author of several books on educational topics, and has served as Head of School at the International Community School of Addis Ababa, the Executive Director of Strategic Programs and High School Principal at Singapore American School, and the High School Principal of Jakarta International School, so he brings over 30 years of school leadership experience to his visit to WIS. Seeing the school through Tim's eyes was helpful to me, as it assured me that "you've got a wonderful school here" and that our priorities are presently in the right place.

Dr Stuart met with students and staff, and encouraged us to continue focusing on building a school culture of kindness, of agentic students, of high standards, and of inclusive and challenging classroom environments. He also encouraged the school to address head-on any incidents of bullying or discrimination as and when they arise. The WIS [anti-bullying policy](#) articulates just how seriously the school takes incidents of bullying and cyber-bullying, and there will be some community workshops planned later this semester which address this concern as it relates to culture at WIS.



This week, we also hosted a series of virtual presentations from Dr Simon Pickstone-Taylor, a leading psychiatrist and neurodiversity expert based at the Red Cross Hospital out of the University of Cape town and an Honorary Senior UCT Lecturer on Transgender youth. If you missed the presentation, a [recording is linked here](#). The session focused on supporting transgender children. The statistics surrounding transgender children are alarming. According to a study by the American Academy of Paediatrics, transgender children are at a higher risk for depression, anxiety, and attempted suicide. In fact, the study found that 50% of transgender adolescents had seriously considered suicide, and 25% had attempted suicide. The numbers are worse if adolescents are learning in unsupportive environments, and better if they are supported to be themselves. These numbers highlight the urgent need for schools to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their gender identity.

We believe that every child deserves to feel safe and supported, and we are determined to make sure that all of our students feel included and valued. We know that creating a safe and inclusive environment for all of our students will require an ongoing effort and collaboration between our school, our families, and our community. We know that this topic is sensitive—especially as it pertains to the religious diversity which exists within our community—so as parents and school staff we will have these conversations slowly and together when it comes to considerations and practicalities in this regard.

Please support your child at home by talking about what it means to be an inclusive school, and as a school that does not permit bullying of any kind. As our [Identity, Belonging & Equity Policy](#) describes, diversity is the “psychological, physical and social differences that occur among any and all individuals, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, age, gender, diet, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and learning styles.” We have all types of diversity represented within our WIS families and students, and it is a firm expectation that we all honour and respect each and every person in our community.

**Warm regards,
Ethan Van Drunen**

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community

It’s been a great week back with lots of great things happening in the Primary School at WIS! Here are a few snapshots:

ART

I hope you had a chance to see the marvellous ART EXHIBITION prepared by Ms Mandy and Ms Sigrid and of course the students! The growth in our students’ skill in Art is truly remarkable.



From the Grade 2 students: field trip to Naankuse

"We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Naankuse. We did a nature walk around the sanctuary and had a presentation from vet Maaike. On our way back to school, we stopped by the leopards."



PE

Students are having a lot of fun in the Learn to Skate Week organised by our PE Department and the Kamikaze Inline Hockey Club. It was a joy to witness the older students take on a sport leadership role as they mentored and coached the younger students to learn a new sport skill.



PYP Exhibition

**If you would like more information about the PYP Exhibition, please view [this guide](#).*

This week our Grade 5 PYP Exhibition students were teamed up with their mentor and based on interest topics put in groups. Students have been working on defining good questions to guide them in their research. The first mentor meeting takes place next week. Topics students are interested in range from World Hunger, Gender Equality and Global Warming to Ocean Pollution. If you would like to be regularly updated on the PYP Exhibition and each individual student's learning journey, please follow along on [this website](#).

UPDATE ON EARLY YEARS

- *If you are an EY parent, you will have received this information by email.*

I am pleased to inform you that we are adding a new transition class to our Early Years programme. This class, which we are calling EY4, will be optional for children who need an extra year in an Early Years setting before transitioning to Grade 1. Just like EY1/2, this will be a combined class with EY3.

Why this change?

At this young age, some children may not be developmentally ready to move on to Grade 1 and may benefit from an extra year of learning in a playful setting. EY4 will provide these children with the option of staying in Early Years for an additional year, instead of repeating EY3. It will not be possible to repeat EY 4 - it is seen as a transitional pre-school readiness programme.

What does this mean for my child?

To support children who are not ready for Grade 1, we prefer to use the term "transition class" instead of "being held back". We believe that this language is more positive and affirming for children, and we want to ensure that all our students feel supported and encouraged in their learning journey.

If you feel that EY4 may be a good option for your child, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or myself for more information. We are excited to offer this new opportunity!

Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen

Terre de Jeux 2024

500 days before the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, this 24-hour sports relay crossed all continents and time zones and mobilised the public and the world of sports through the commitment of the French embassies.



On this occasion, on March 14, 2023, the relay around the world "Terre de Jeux 2024" passed through Namibia. The FNCC was, for one day, the host of sports events.

In partnership with the French Embassy and the Namibian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, 80 students had the chance to take part in these activities and exchange with Namibian Olympic athletes.

The Grade 9 French students were invited to take part in this event. This was a wonderful experience, we had the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new people. We were put in different coloured groups (blue, green, red, and yellow) and every 10 minutes we would move to the different sports events that were offered which were dancing, obstacle course, basketball, and cycling. As the last event, we had a 500-meter relay in celebration of 500 days to go before the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and to the end, we were served a lovely French breakfast which included fruits, juice, pains au chocolat and croissants. We would like to thank the French Embassy and the Namibian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, Mr. Benedict and Madame Catherine, for making this event possible.

Jisele and Isabella



The image is a promotional poster for a garage sale fundraiser. It features a blue background with a yellow and blue striped awning. At the top left is a circular logo for SPCA Windhoek with a paw print. The main title is 'SPCA WINDHOEK GARAGE SALE' in large yellow letters. Below it, a smaller line of text reads 'ALL FUNDS COLLECTED DIRECTLY HELP THE ANIMALS AT SPCA WINDHOEK!'. Under the awning, the text 'AN SPCA WINDHOEK FUNDRAISER' is written in yellow. The date and time are 'SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2023' and '09:00 - 13:00'. The address is '145 ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE WINDHOEK'.

SPCA WINDHOEK GARAGE SALE

ALL FUNDS COLLECTED DIRECTLY HELP THE ANIMALS AT SPCA WINDHOEK!

AN SPCA WINDHOEK FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2023
09:00 - 13:00
145 ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE WINDHOEK



WREN | TOURS

UNIVERSITY FAIR

MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2023

16:00 - 19:00 @ THE WIS PLC AUDITORIUM



MEMORIAL
UNIVERSITY



LYNN
UNIVERSITY



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**



BABSON
COLLEGE

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU | ABU DHABI



**UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG**

THE UNIVERSITY
OF **TAMPA**



INDIANA UNIVERSITY



**UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG**



**JOHN CABOT
UNIVERSITY**



**ie
UNIVERSITY**

COME AND MEET WITH THESE DIVERSE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW TO REGISTER NOW:

https://wrentours.formstack.com/forms/africa_spring2023

INFORMATION SESSIONS AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY FAIR



*You're
Invited to a*

WIS Easter Coffee Morning

Thursday, 6 April 2023

**WIS Fish Eagle, Tuck shop area
07:00 - 08:00**

Enjoy a snack with your coffee.





LIBRARY Week

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023
Game On! | 1:40pm to 3:00pm
Place: Secondary Library
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023
Book to Movie | 1:50pm to 3:30pm
Place: PLC (Auditorium)
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023
Book Fair | 11:00am to 2:00pm
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023
Science of Reading Workshop | 10:30am to 11:30am
Place: Secondary Library
ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
Books & Characters Day | ALL DAY
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE



**ACOUSTIC
FRIDAY**
THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**31
MAR**

ft **Zingerwingz**

CONCERT: 19h00
VENUE: FNCC
DAMAGE: N\$ 60 (In Advance)
N\$ 80 (At The Door)

For Enquiries:
culturalofficer@fncc.org.na

Tickets Available At The **FNCC**
118 Robert Mugabe Ave. Windhoek





FOR SALE

**FORD RANGER 3.2 (2015)
310.000 NAD or 15.500 EUR**

128.000 km, double cab with aluminium canopy, automatic transmission, double tank (extra 64 l), Isofix, reverse camera, leather seats, nudge bar, tires in good condition, accident-free, safe, reliable and comfortable car for families with ambitions to go camping. Available now.

More information, photos or inquiries via WhatsApp:

+264 81 4183012 (Dennis)

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